

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Techniques for provisioning databases for users on a wide area network include a first party managing one or more database systems. Multiple second parties subscribe to database services supported by the database systems managed by the first party. The first
5 party provides, over a network, to database applications controlled by the second parties, access to the database services to which the second parties are subscribed.

The database systems may use database appliances. A database appliance includes a database process and a non-database process that is tailored to the needs of the database process. The wide area network may be a public network of computer networks, such as
10 the Internet. With the present invention, a user is able to obtain needed database resources from an Internet Database Service Provider (IDSP) with a minimum of user effort and without the user incurring the full costs of one or more database administrators, or the costs of a dedicated database equipment facility, or even the costs of a dedicated database device, depending on usage. At the same time, the IDSP can readily provide for several
15 database users with minimum staffing loads on the IDSP because of self-service tools provided. Furthermore, the IDSP start-up and maintenance efforts are reduced through several tools, such as the costing model and automatic billing features.